

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/613,172

Examiner

Ajay Vasudeva

Applicant(s)

WILKIE, GEOFFREY D.M.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview conducted on 7/05/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-13 and 16-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul Maliszewski on 7/05/2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims (see amendment dated 1/25/2006)

(A) Previously withdrawn **claim 14** and **claim 28** have been **canceled**.

(B) Claims 2-4 and 16-18 have been amended as follows:

In claim 2

- on line 1, after "dimensions of a", "**vessel**" has been changed to – **marine vessel having a buoyant --**.
- on line 4, after "a portion of said", "**vessel hull**" has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water --**.
- on line 7, after "coplanar with said portion of said", "**vessel**" has been changed to – **buoyant --**.
- on line 7, after "hull, and said", "**vessel is**" has been changed to – **hull remains --**.
- on line 8, after "assembly is", – **fully** – has been inserted.

In claim 3

- on line 1, after “dimensions of a”, “**vessel**” has been changed to – **marine vessel having a buoyant --**.
- on line 4, after “a portion of said”, “**vessel hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water --**.
- on line 7, after “coplanar with said portion of said”, “**vessel**” has been changed to – **buoyant --**.
- on line 7, after “hull, and said”, “**vessel is**” has been changed to – **hull remains --**.
- on line 8, after “assembly is”, – **fully** – has been inserted.

In claim 4

- on line 1, after “dimensions of a”, “**vessel**” has been changed to – **marine vessel having a buoyant --**.
- on line 4, after “a portion of said”, “**vessel hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water --**.
- on line 7, after “coplanar with said portion of said”, “**vessel hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull, and said hull remains buoyant when said assembly is fully retracted --**.

In claim 16

- on line 1, before “vessel comprising”, – **marine** – has been inserted.
- on line 2, before “hull”, – **buoyant** – has been inserted.

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- on line 4, after “a portion of said”, “**hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water** --.
- on line 7, after “coplanar with said portion of said”, “**vessel**” has been changed to – **buoyant** --.
- on line 7, after “hull, and said”, “**vessel is**” has been changed to – **hull remains** --.
- on line 8, after “assembly is”, – **fully** – has been inserted.

In claim 17

- on line 1, before “vessel comprising”, – **marine** – has been inserted.
- on line 2, before “hull”, – **buoyant** – has been inserted.
- on line 4, after “a portion of said”, “**hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water** --.
- on line 7, after “coplanar with said portion of said”, “**vessel hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull, and said hull remains buoyant when said assembly is fully retracted** --.

In claim 18

- on line 1, before “vessel comprising”, – **marine** – has been inserted.
- on line 2, before “hull”, – **buoyant** – has been inserted.
- on line 4, after “a portion of said”, “**hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull in contact with water** --.
- on line 7, after “coplanar with said portion of said”, “**vessel hull**” has been changed to – **buoyant hull, and said hull remains buoyant when said assembly is fully retracted** --.


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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (571) 272-6689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 12:00 -- 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ajay Vasudeva
Examiner
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AJAY VASUDEVA 7/07/06
PATENT EXAMINER